

THIRTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOURNE URBAN DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1911.

BOURNE, FEBRUARY 1ST, 1912.

To the Bourne Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

It gives me much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1911, to be able to do so in more optimistic mood, because your Council has, perhaps as a reward of my importunities, departed from its usual attitude of "*laissez faire*" and taken several much needed steps for the sanitary improvement of your District. There is still, however, one question on which my efforts to move you to action seem about as availng as charging headfirst against a brick wall, I refer to the matter of Housing Accommodation, for there your Council gets itself into an *impasse* and stops there; for, when I point out the urgent need of appropriate dwellings for the working class you say "we cannot credit it," and yet again when you are asked to abolish certain disreputable hovels you enquire "where are the inhabitants to go to?" Surely, Gentlemen, the answer to that question should be obvious, and if some of your Council do not see it, can it be that self-interest causes their obscurity of vision?

Before reviewing the Vital Statistics it is well to bear in mind that yours is a small Urban District, surrounded by and entirely dependent upon an agricultural neighbourhood from whence the youth migrate to the larger towns whilst the middle

aged and old remain, and the fact must not be overlooked that your yearly increasing charities offer them an added inducement to do so. It is necessary to emphasize this, as I feel sure it has an important bearing on your deplorably diminished birth-rate, deplorable because healthy country-bred stock is a national essential, and I have been speculating as to whether some of the before-mentioned charities might not usefully be directed to help in remedying this failing. The deserving poor need not necessarily be old, moreover the State is now more or less providing for those of advancing age; and so I leave my suggestion in the capable hands of your Charity Trustees.

Vital Statistics. So far as the Death rate is concerned, your District Statistics. establishes for itself a record, and, I should suppose, a rate which will be unsurpassed anywhere. The nett deaths belonging to the District during the year 1911, amounted to 47, which gives an average of only 10·5 per thousand, and compares with a rate of 13·9 for the rest of England, (large towns excluded), your own previous death-rate average for the last 10 years being 15·5.

Of those 47 deaths, 20 were at least septuagenarians, and 7 were infants under a year old. For the rest the abnormal summer was responsible for 4 deaths from Diarrhoea; there were only 3 mortalities from Cancer, and but a single one from Consumption. The infant mortality, too, shows a most satisfactory decrease, the deaths under one year of age being 8, a number, which, for smallness, has only been equalled once during the last 10 years, and of that number 7 were due to premature birth or troubles resulting therefrom.

The Birth-rate on the other hand is unfortunately the lowest on record, for the total number of births was only 82, which gives a rate of 18·8 per thousand only, against that of 23·4 for England, (large towns excluded), and your own 10 years average of 23·1.

The only consolatory remark I can offer is that since the previous year was well above the average in this respect, the

unfortunate showing for 1911, was, shall we say, "the swing of the pendulum?" That civilization, so called, has taught the community to take more thought, not to say action, in the matter of limiting family is undeniable, but one would not expect, and I have no reason to believe, that such influence is unduly prevalent in your District.

Infectious Diseases. There were during the year only 7 notifications of Infectious Disease, and of these 2 were of Erysipelas and the remaining 5 of Scarlatina. Of these five cases, three occurred in one household, where a child returned home from a visit in the peeling stage of the disease and so communicated the infection to two other of the children. In neither of the two remaining cases could the source of infection be traced. All the cases were satisfactorily isolated in their own homes and no further spread has resulted.

The Local Government Board, by their Public Health (Tuberculosis) regulations of 1911, have fulfilled the prophecy made in my Report for 1908, and have now made compulsory the notification of every case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis by the Medical Attendant, and have instructed Medical Officers of Health to promptly visit such cases in order to supervise the steps taken to limit the infectivity of the case, and to assist in any way possible in improving the hygienic conditions of the sufferer.

Isolation Cases. Acting on the advice given in my last Report, your Council made overtures to the Rural District Council for the purchase of the Manor Lane Buildings, in order that such alterations might be made as would render the place quite suitable for the needs of the district, but the price asked was considered unreasonable, and the matter remained "*in statu quo*" until quite late in the year, when an intimation was received from the Rural District Council that they were contemplating the erection of a permanent Infectious Hospital, and invited your Council to join them and undertake a portion of the cost of erection and maintenance in proportion to the relative populations of the two Districts, that is to say, about one-fifth. Your Council has preferred to offer them a fair annual

retaining fee and to pay in addition a fair weekly fee for each case which may be sent from your District, and so the matter remains at present, in the meantime you are making use of the Manor Lane Buildings, with which, personally, I can find little fault.

Housing Accommo- In dealing with this subject I feel the necessity of a tight rein lest I might let myself get out of dation. control.

Let me start with the history :--

In 1911 there have been erected 14 villa dwellings and two cottages.

In 1910 "Six new villas, one shop and dwelling-house were erected and no new cottages suitable for the working class."

In 1909 "There have been built only five new dwellings which could be classed as cottages."

In 1908 "There have been several new houses erected during the year and several in course of erection, though none of them are cottages."

In 1907, from Dr. Mivart's Report, "There has been very little building, and of late none at all, of houses suitable for the poorer working classes."

There you are, Gentlemen, in five years seven cottages have been erected and of those seven, five were of the better sort, the rental being, I am told, 4/9 per week.

Is it any longer a source of wonder to you that your population, as reckoned by the last census, should have decreased, whilst that of the Rural District, the Rural District, has increased !

Whilst seven new cottages have been built how many have tumbled to decay ? At any rate only last year thirteen were either closed or pulled down.

And yet I cannot persuade you to build !

In my last report I took elaborate pains to put before you the kind of cottage that was required, and to show how such

could be erected at no pecuniary loss to the District, and when challenged as to the accuracy of my figures, produced plans and an estimate from a reliable builder to support them.

Still I was denied, and one sapient Councillor advised, "Let us wait and see how the Rural District Council get on, they talk of building."

The Rural Council have built, and are building, whilst you with more urgent need, still "wait and see."

It is, of course, highly undesirable that public bodies should engage themselves in any work in competition with or to the detriment of private enterprise, but in cases where the community is suffering from lack of private enterprise it would seem to be the bounden duty of the public's representatives to lend their assistance.

The Inspection of the District under the Housing Regulations of 1910 has entailed a considerable amount of work both to the Surveyor and to myself ; the result in tabular form is as follows :—

Houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Act of 1909	...	...	185
Dwelling-houses which on inspection were con- sidered to be in a state so dangerous or in- jurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	25
Representations made to the Local Authority with a view to making Closing Orders	...	...	25
Closing Orders made	...	...	11
Dwelling-houses, defects in which were remedied without making Closing Orders	...	...	122

The principal defects were : insufficiency of air space and light, want of drainage, and in many cases general dilapidation. There were also numerous instances of foul and overflowing privies, causing danger, and very many offensive rubbish heaps where no receptacle for refuse was provided.

In considering your action on the Reports your Council appeared to hold a very moderate estimate of what was consistent with a sanitary dwelling-house for a fellow-townsman.

The Inspection has so far had one very noteworthy result in that it has been the means of causing the substitution of more than 50 properly constructed W.C.'s in the place of previous foul privies.

Let me once more call your attention to the too utterly primitive tenements known as the Men's and Women's Bede Houses, which are in every way unsuitable for their purpose, and are a positive disgrace to a town with such bountiful Charities as yours.

There were discovered during the year seven cases of serious over-crowding, and steps were at once taken to obviate the nuisance.

For the past years the number of inhabited houses in your District has been given me as 1075 at the census of 1901, whilst this year with the census of 1911 as a guide, the number given is 965, a minus difference of over a hundred, and in view of the very considerable number of villa residences which to my knowledge have been erected and occupied in that period I am at a loss to discover the corresponding dismantled houses which these figures would imply, and yet to a certain extent the census population return bears them out.

Water Supply. The Water supplied under natural pressure has been of course quite satisfactory as to quality, but owing to the long period of drought in the summer, the pressure was much diminished, and several houses in the West Street were unable to obtain water on the premises, but after the autumn rains the pressure rose and the customary supply returned. As during every past year, several fresh bores have been sunk by private owners, and one especially large one at a Malting in the West Street. This, as I have before mentioned, is to be regretted as it not only tends to increase waste and lower the pressure over the whole district, but also cripples the powers of the Waterworks Company financially to the detriment of the district it supplies.

Sewage In my previous reports the inadequacy of the Sewage-Disposal. beds for the work which they were called upon to perform had been pointed out to your Council and plans had been submitted to you by which for a comparatively small outlay the efficacy of the purifying process could be practically doubled.

Last year these plans were accepted and sufficient expenditure permitted out of the current rate to partly complete the work. All that remains to be done is to concrete the floors of the new beds and to provide the filtering material ; the expenditure of a like sum to that granted last year will be adequate for the purpose and this I have no doubt your Council will readily agree to.

Refuse Another of the Sanitary advances during the past Disposal. year has been the institution by your Council of a regular system of house to house collection of refuse. This, I understand, has given general satisfaction, and it is to be hoped will be the means of abolishing the very frequent cases of nuisances arising from defective and overflowing ashpits which have occurred in the past.

Bakehouses, Dairies, Cowsheds and Slaughter-houses. The Bakehouses have been systematically inspected during the year, and all were found in a satisfactory condition except in one instance, where there was need of proper lime-washing, and this on warning from the Sanitary Officer was at once remedied.

Two more milk-sellers have been added to the register during the past year, and all the Dairies and Cowsheds have been regularly visited ; all the Dairies were clean and well kept and great improvement in the general condition of the Cowsheds was noted.

The Slaughter-houses were also inspected frequently and with one exception without discovering any cause of complaint, and in this instance the defect was remedied forthwith at the instance of the Sanitary Inspector.

The regulation prohibiting the sale of meat other than that which had been killed at a registered Slaughter-house

pressed hardly on a considerable number of the poorer inhabitants who make a practice of keeping a pig or pigs and eventually selling a portion of each carcase when killed. To obviate this hardship the strict letter of the regulation has not been observed, but the intention has been preserved by your Sanitary Officer voluntarily going to inspect the carcase on receipt of a request. He has this year made 37 such visits of inspection and in every case found the meat sound and healthy.

One carcase of beef exposed for sale was thought to be suspicious and a Veterinary Surgeon was consulted, who pronounced it fit for consumption.

Nuisances. According to the Report of your Sanitary Inspector there were during the year 119 cases of nuisance arising mainly from filthy privies, accumulation of refuse, dirty pigstyes, &c., 27 were served with written notice and the nuisance in all cases abated ; the remainder were given verbal notice and in every case the fault was rectified within the space of a few days.

Pollution of Watercourses. That the Bourne Eau had been contaminated by the processes of a Fellmongering business carried on in the Eastgate for a number of years was of course within my knowledge, as also that of every member of your Council, but, taking into consideration the facts that the matter was of such long standing, that the pollution in no way affected the inhabitants of your District throughout the course of the river itself or that of the river Glen (into which it flows) for many miles, and that the business referred to was a matter of bread and cheese to a good many households in the vicinity, I had not previously mentioned the matter in my Report.

In the autumn, however, a complaint was referred to me by the Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Spalding, in a letter which I thought it my duty to lay before your Council. As a result a committee was appointed to inspect the locality when it was obvious that gross pollution of the river was taking place from the washing of skins and pelts in open cages in the stream,

and from the chemicals used in the process, in addition to which the blood-stained fluid from the washing of more recent skins drained directly into the river also.

The Committee recommended that the present open cages be replaced by impermeable tanks, to be emptied when necessary into the town sewer, and that all drains from the works be also connected with the sewer.

Since a member of the firm in question was present at the Committee meeting and expressed his readiness to comply with these recommendations I have no doubt that in my next Report I shall be able to note the complete abatement of the nuisance.

Workshops and Workplaces. The number of Workshops, including the Bakehouses, on the register during the year was 16.

These have all been regularly inspected and the defects found comprised two of want of cleanliness, one of over-crowding, one of want of proper ventilation, and three other minor nuisances. All the defects were promptly remedied at the instigation of the Inspector, and no prosecutions were necessary.

The usual Tables dealing with Vital Statistics, Infant Mortality, Infectious Diseases and Factories and Workshops, will be found appended, and in recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III. and IV., full attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

I am, Gentleman,

Obediently yours,

W. J. GILPIN.



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TABLE I.
BOURNE URBAN DISTRICT.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1911 and previous Years.

YEAR	Births.				TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.			NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
	Un-corrected Number		Nett.		Number		Rate.		of Non-residents not registered in the District		Under 1 year of age		At all ages.		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	
1906	4400	98			22.2					8	81.6	50	11.3		
1907	4387	90			20.5	73	15.2	13		16	177.7	60	13.6		
1908	4402	98			22.2	84	19	8	3	17	173.4	72	16.3		
1909	4379	89			20.3	60	13.4	7	6	9	101.2	59	13.2		
1910	4408	111			25.2	90	20.4	18	2	17	153.1	74	16.7		
1911	4344	84			18.8	52	11.8		8	3	8	97.6	47	10.5	

At Census of 1911—Total population at all ages, 4344. Number of Inhabited houses, 965.

Average number of persons per house, 4.5.

Area of District in acres, (exclusive of area covered by water), 975.

TABLE II.
BOURNE URBAN DISTRICT.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1911.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO	
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox										
Cholera										
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)										
Erysipelas	2					1	1			
Scarlet fever	5			5						
Typhus fever										
Enteric fever										
Relapsing fever										
Continued fever										
Puerperal fever										
Plague										
Phthisis	Under Tubercu- losis Regulations, 1908. Under Tubercu- losis Regulations, 1911. Others	Nil							Nil.	
Totals			7			5	1	1		

Isolation Hospital—Isolation Buildings, Manor Lane. Total available Beds—6.
Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated—2.

TABLE III.
BOURNE URBAN DISTRICT.
Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1911.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "non-residents" in Institutions in the District
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All Causes { Certified. Uncertified.										
Enteric Fever										
Small Pox										
Measles										
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping Cough										
Diphtheria and Croup										
Influenza										
Erysipelas										
Cerebro-Spinal Fever										
Pyaemia	1									
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	1					1				1
Tuberculous Meningitis										1
Other Tuberculous Diseases										
Rheumatic Fever										
Cancer, malignant disease	4									3
Bronchitis	3									3
Broncho-Pneumonia										
Pneumonia (all other forms)	4									3
Other diseases of Respiratory organs										
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	5	1	3							5
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1									1
Alcoholism										
Cirrhosis of Liver										
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	2									1
Puerperal Fever										
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition										
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	7	7								7
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide										
Suicides										
Other Defined Diseases	17									27
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	2									
	47	8	3		2		2	7	25	52

TABLE IV.
BOURNE URBAN DISTRICT.
INFANT MORTALITY, 1911. Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
All Causes { Certified Uncertified	1	2	1		4	1	2		1	8
Small-pox ..										
Chicken-pox ..										
Measles ..										
Scarlet fever ..										
Diphtheria and Croup ..										
Whooping-cough ..										
Diarrhoea ..										
Enteritis ..										
Tuberculous Meningitis ..										
Abdominal Tuberculosis ..										
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..										
Congenital Malformations ..										
Premature birth ..	1	1				1	1			3
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ..		1								1
Atelectasis ..										
Injury at birth ..										
Erysipelas ..										
Syphilis ..										
Rickets ..										
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ..										
Convulsions ..			1							1
Gastritis ..										
Laryngitis ..										
Bronchitis ..										
Pneumonia (all forms) ..										
Suffocation, overlying ..										
Other causes ..										
TOTAL	1	2	1		4	1	2		1	8

Nett Births in the year—legitimate 74, illegitimate 8. Nett Deaths in the year—legitimate infants 7, illegitimate infants 1.

TABLE V.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1911, for
The Urban District of Bourne,

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with the

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS and WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of			Prosecutions. (4)
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)		
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	12	1		
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	21	7		
Workplaces				
Total	33	8		Nil

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	2	1
Want of ventilation	1	1
Overcrowding	1	1
Want of Drainage of floors	
Other nuisances	3	3
Sanitary accommodation	{ insufficient .. unsuitable or defective .. not separate for sexes ..	..	1	1
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—		..	..
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)		
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)		
Other offences		
Total	8	1	Nil

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

3.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register: (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
(1)	(2)

Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here.

4.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class. _____
(1) _____

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—

Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)

Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, b not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5)

Other

Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :-

Certificates granted during the year

In use at the end of the year

W. J. GILPIN,

Medical Officer of Health,
February 1st, 1912.